

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 802

By Shipley

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the completion of
Darrell's Dream Boundless Playground
Complex.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly pause to recognize those estimable community programs and projects that improve the lives of children with physical, developmental, and sensory disabilities; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy project is Darrell's Dream Boundless Playground Complex, which will be completed on April 23, 2012, with the grand opening of its final addition, the Palmer Center Foundation Amphitheater; and

WHEREAS, approximately five million children between the ages of five and twelve in the United States have some type of disability that makes it difficult or impossible for them to play on a traditional playground, and one out of nine children in the Tri-Cities region has some type of disability; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, the late Darrell Rice and other members of the Friends of Warriors Path State Park, begin to envision a place where children of all ages and all abilities would be able to laugh, play, grow, and learn together, regardless of physical, sensory, or developmental disability; and

WHEREAS, Darrell's Dream Boundless Playground Complex, nestled in Warriors' Path State Park in Kingsport, first opened in April of 2007 and featured a variety of outdoor recreation experiences that were uniquely configured to provide inclusive play and remove the barriers that limit childhood exploration and development; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the Palmer Center Foundation Amphitheater, Darrell's Dream Boundless Playground Complex also includes Gamma and Alpha play areas specially designed

for age appropriate development, a Sand Island Interactive Maze with Puppet Theater, life-size xylophone, art wall, herb garden, the Lion's Narnia Braille Trail, the Anderson Tree house, and a Nature Walk; and

WHEREAS, designed by children for children, Darrell's Dream Boundless Playground Complex is the first of its kind in the nation to be situated inside a state park and has already become a model for playgrounds across the country; and

WHEREAS, with over 500 children able to daily enjoy the playground's universal accessibility, Darrell's Dream Boundless Playground Complex is already a treasured destination for families across a four-state region; and

WHEREAS, this magnificent endeavor would not have been possible without the generous and tireless support of countless individuals, small businesses, civic clubs, churches, and major corporations, who have contributed over \$4 million to this worthwhile endeavor; and

WHEREAS, Darrell's Dream Boundless Playground Complex's play environment encourages the social, emotional, physical, and cognitive growth of each child who experiences its barrier-free layout, and the children and families of the Tri-Cities region undoubtedly benefit from its unique design; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby join with the Kingsport community and the people of this great State to honor and recognize the completion of Darrell's Dream Boundless Playground Complex, gratefully commending all of the individuals, organizations, and businesses who made this dream into a reality.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.